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NSC BRIEFING

23 May 1960

WORLD REACTION TO PARIS DEVELOPMENTS

- I. ~~Here is a brief rundown on reaction to Paris developments elsewhere in the world.~~ In Asia, reaction has generally been sophisticated and responsible.
- A. There is much sympathy for the United States position although there is considerable criticism of its handling of the U-2 incident. It seems to boil down, in many countries, to an attitude of a "plague on both houses."
- B. Khrushchev's personal behavior, as well as his wrecking tactics, have been widely condemned.
- II. A notable exception has been the Indian press which in recent days has switched from initial criticism of Khrushchev to a theme blaming the "whole trouble" on American "bungling."
- A. Nehru, so far, has been cautious in his comment. He refuses to fix blame for summit breakdown and has not condemned U-2 incident.
- B. Deputy Prime Minister Pant turned his speech on summit into censure of Communist China by noting there was "only one country" which does not feel unhappy over outcome.
- III. In Japan, South Korea, and Nationalist China, Khrushchev's action widely criticized, although some Japanese newspapers ascribe a share of the blame to the US because of the U-2 incident.
- IV. No Southeast Asian official, in comment to date, has supported Khrushchev's position.

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- A. Indonesia's acting foreign minister Leimena has publicly refused to assign blame and has called for early summit, possibly under UN auspices.  he says K torpedoed the summit at behest of ChiComs.
  - B. K assailed by press and officials in Australia, New Zealand, and Philippines.
  - V. In Pakistan, Ayub has made it clear where his sympathies lie, observing that "today Free World must live under umbrella of American nuclear deterrent."
    - A. He may be feeling the heat of Soviet threats, however, because the government-monitored press has begun putting more blame for world crisis on US.
  - VI. Initial <sup>West</sup> European disappointment, anger and fear now tempered by conviction crisis not imminent.
    - A. Some comfort drawn from spontaneous unity in free-world ranks.
  - VII. Press and politicians agree in blaming Khrushchev for wrecking conference.
    - A. Even Laborite Daily Herald, caustic critic of U-2 flight, charged Khrushchev with "spitting in the face of peace."
  - VIII. Still wide tendency to see Khrushchev subject to strong internal Soviet and Bloc pressures.
    - A. Paris-Jour (mass circulation, sensationalist):

"Twelve days ago, on May 5, addressing the Supreme Soviet, Khrushchev suddenly and without warning stopped talking like Khrushchev. On that day he became the spokesman of Mao Tse-tung...."

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- IX. Increasing inclination, however, to see "an episode and maneuver" to improve Soviet position, without any fundamental reorientation of Moscow's foreign policy.
- A. U-2 flight considered a convenient way out of conference when Khrushchev saw no breach in Western unity.
- X. Nevertheless, US not exonerated.
- A. Le Monde said Khrushchev couldn't be blamed for taking advantage of such a "fine opportunity" as the U-2 incident.
- B. Finnish President Kekkonen told US ambassador he was "horrified" by overflight admission, which he said left Russians no alternative but to present demands.
- XI. There is widespread conviction that K's performance will tighten Western alliance, but US likely to face new problems with allies.
- A. Smaller countries will probably be more cautious about future use their territories.
- B. Some European press comment is beginning to indicate dissatisfaction with American leadership of the Western camp.
- C. De Gaulle told his cabinet on 20 May that "there must be no dependence on others to assure our own destiny."
1. Couve de Murville assured parliament, however, that De Gaulle did not envisage a separate role for France.
- XII. In Latin America, there has been little official reaction to date.
- A. The press in Dominican Republic, Panama, Peru and Venezuela highlights Soviet responsibility for wrecking summit.

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- B. Cuba tends to follow Communist line; controlled press and radio using K's diatribes to emphasize Cuban charges that US policies basically "aggressive."
- C. Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico were critical of US in varying degrees.
  - 1. Brazil, Chile and Ecuador media have suggested smaller nations be given voice in tackling world problems.
  - 2. Brazilian editorials accuse both sides of "imprudence" and "inflexibility," and have expressed fear for the "salvation of mankind."

XIII. Arab reactions vary widely in the proportion of blame attributed to the US or USSR, but all show deep disappointment over the summit breakdown and fear of extreme international tension to come.

- A. Nasir believes that, while the US blundered seriously in its handling of the U-2 incident, Khrushchev badly overplayed his hand in Paris and Eisenhower's restraint has helped change world opinion in America's favor.
- B. Nasir added that Khrushchev's behavior had puzzled most Arabs as much as it had his own young son who asked, "Has Khrushchev gone crazy? Does he want a war?"
- C. Israel, Jordan, and to a lesser extent Lebanon, have supported the Western position.
- D. In Iraq, the pro-Communist press has supported the USSR and put all the blame on the United States. The nationalist press has expressed a cautious view but charges the leftist newspapers with "propagating for the Communist camp."

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XIV. Public and official reaction in Greece, Turkey and Iran is generally favorable to the West and the US.

A. Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis suggests that "now is the time for the Free World to capture the initiative," and that the West needs "to be up and coming with a variety of proposals to capture the imagination of the Free World, and the neutrals."

XV. African press and leaders have stressed the danger to world peace, especially the danger to smaller uncommitted nations, and have shown some irritation that the "big four" should claim to speak for the world. They have generally criticized the US for its intelligence activities; they have rebuked the USSR for its intransigent attitude.

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